

10-10-96

VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Volume 49, Issue 5

Thursday, October 10, 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

TAE Honor Society is still accepting new member applications. Students with GPA's of 3.2 or higher are encouraged to join. Day meetings are held every Mon. from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in CC202; evening meetings are also every Mon. from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in CC104. Deadline to join: Oct. 14.

The Admissions office is preparing for Spring '97 registration. Students who may have moved in the last few months should stop by the Adm. building lobby and fill out a "change of address" form. Postcards will be mailed shortly to notify students of their telephone registration appointment date. Any enrollment, library, business or financial hold will prevent that student from registering. Visit the Admissions office for assistance.

The next **Elementary Algebra Competency Test** is Wed. Oct. 23 @ 1:30 p.m. in Admin. 126. No appointment necessary.

Spring 1997 potential graduates should file a **Graduation Petition** by Fri. Oct. 25 @ 4 p.m. Petitions are available in the Graduation office, Admin. 127.

The next Valley College Music Department **Campus Concert** is Fri. Oct. 11. The Valley Symphony Orchestra will be performing, featuring Stacey Cornell, soprano. Robert Chauls, director. Concert held in Little Theatre @ 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 for students and \$7 for seniors. For information: (818) 778-0346.

Free Writing Workshops open to all students. The Writing Center offers the following: Writing Essay Test- Mon. Oct. 14 @ noon; Sentence Fragments-Tue. Oct. 15 @ noon; Punctuation-Wed. Oct. 16 @ noon; and Developing Paragraphs-Thur. Oct. 17 @ 6 p.m. Each one-hour workshop will be held in Humanities 100. Pre registration is encouraged.

A **Community Job Fair** is scheduled for Thur. Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Panorama Mall, located on Roscoe at Van Nuys Blvd. in Panorama City. Over 40 employers have been invited. For more information, contact: Panorama Mall (818) 891-6518 or contact: Dept. of Public Services GAIN office: (818) 895-5983.

"Choice or Chance: Selecting a Major" is the next **Lunch time Workshop** available to all students. Barbara Goldberg is conducting the workshop Tue. Oct. 15 from noon to 1 p.m. @ FL 102.

Financial Aid office is holding an **Ability to Benefit Test** Wed. Oct. 16 @ 6 p.m. in Adm. 126. Picture ID required, and no appointment necessary. Visit the Financial Aid office, Bungalow 13 for more info.

All Valley College campus groups & organizations may submit flyers and additional information to be printed in HIGHLIGHTS. Bring the information to Bungalow 25 by noon on the Monday of the week of publication.



Johanna Williams, a Liberal Arts Major at Valley College, volunteers at Democratic Headquarters, Burbank. See article at bottom of page.

Religious Booth Burned in Monarch Square

By MONICA LID
STAFF WRITER

Members of Hillel met in shock and disbelief Monday morning after realizing their Sukkah booth had been burned down over the weekend.

"I'm as positive as I can be that this is a hate crime," said Valley College Hillel President Valeri Statland. "Somebody purposely torched the Sukkah at the back, something we just can't let happen," she continued.

She supports her opinion by relating it to other incidents that have allegedly taken place in the San Fernando Valley in the days before the start of the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

"The fact that the Sukkah was torched on the holiest day of the festival, and that 1300 palm fronds were stolen from West Valley Storage lot the day before they were to be handed out in Pan Pacific Park, makes me believe this was a hate crime," said Statland.

"I will use this to inspire my members to get involved and to

make sure our presence is known," she said.

Though Statland is convinced otherwise, campus police reported the incident as an act of vandalism.

"The scene bears no indication of a hate crime," said Campus Police Officer Michael Habicht, who discovered the burnt booth on his rounds Sunday morning at 6:40 a.m.

"We can not upgrade an incident like this to a hate crime without sufficient evidence," said Habicht.

According to the police report, the Sukkah was partially burnt, and had apparently extinguished itself.

"Because this was a religious booth, the remains were taken down to avoid creating any further problems," said Habicht.

In response to Statland's complaint that a picture was not taken of the crime scene, campus police said there was no reason for a picture.

"When a hate crime has been committed there is always a little sign," said Campus Police Officer

Larry Manderscheid who along with Habicht investigated the incident.

"I have several years of experience working with hate crimes for the LAPD," said Manderscheid. "This scene bore no indications of such a crime. This was probably done by somebody who came across the booth late Saturday night and decided to light it on fire."

According to Habicht, the investigation is ongoing and has been handed over to the LAPD, which welcomes any tips that can lead to the closure of the case.

"If new evidence comes up we can always upgrade the crime," said Habicht. "We just can't blow this out of proportion."

In response to the incident, Hillel had a strong force present at their regularly scheduled information table in Monarch Square Wednesday afternoon.

"We are here to inform the campus community of what happened, and to promote peace," said Rabbinical intern Mark Wecker. He continued saying, "We have to celebrate our differences and confront prejudice and hatred."

New Onramp to the Information Super-Highway

By MONICA LID
STAFF WRITER

From Valley College the new entrance to Cyberspace is the Professional Media Resource Center (PMRC) located at the southwest wing of the library.

The unofficial opening of the center took place on September 28 at the UN Conference on women.

"The conference was an opportunity to really test our system with what we have so far," said Lou Albert, director of staff development, now overseeing the PMRC.

For the UN Conference some equipment had been borrowed and, according to Albert, the plan was to have a direct hookup with the conference facilitators in Washington, D.C.

Despite the fact that direct interaction had been in the works for weeks it did not happen on that

day.

"We had the hardware for cyberspace hookup with video and voice transmitted directly, but the other side was not ready for us," said Albert.

The PMRC was used for a teleconference session where twelve participants from the conference gathered in the PMRC to speak with Linda Tarr-Whelan, a delegate present at the conference site in Washington.

In addition to supporting venues like the UN Conference, the PMRC is considered a great asset to the faculty, staff and classifieds at Valley College who can use this center as an on ramp to the Information Superhighway, as well as access their E-mail.

"Even though students will not have the opportunity to personally use the center," stated Albert "They are the ones who ultimately will benefit from this. Now, their instructors can bring addi-

tional updated material back to the classrooms."

According to Albert, students will not have user access to the PMRC because they already have labs on campus at their disposal.

These facilities will also offer Internet access in the near future but this is still in the planning stages, according to Albert.

Such an opportunity will be finalized by the approval of a district-wide contract with Netway.

"This will enable us to control our computer offerings at each campus," said Albert. "And at the same time give students an excellent opportunity to access information."

The PMRC is for the moment, equipped with three Power PC Macintoshes, six Compac Pentium machines and it will soon have its own video editing system, apparently the first one of its kind at Valley College.

"With this kind of hardware,"

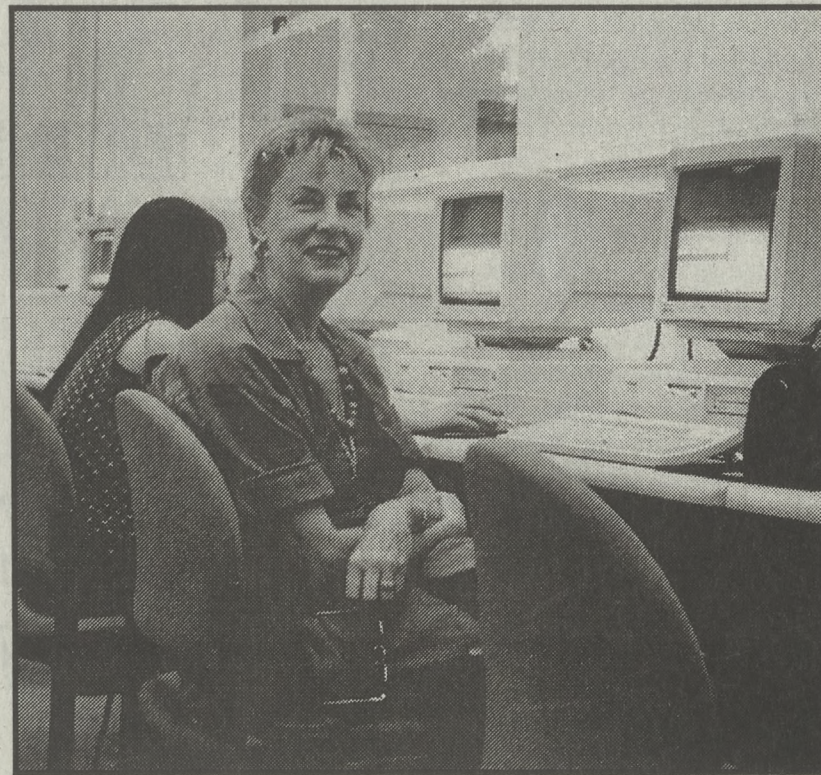
said Albert. "The PMRC is now a multimedia center."

The fact that the computers at the PMRC can easily be upgraded enables Valley College to keep up with new technology.

"We will also teach maintenance to the users here at the center," Albert said. "This way the computers will have a long life

and will be useful at other locations on campus when time comes to renew the PMRC."

Albert added, "The potential here is incredible, its as much as anyone wants to make of it coming in here."



Pat Allen, using the Professional Media Resource Center during the UN Women's Conference-One Year Later.

Election 1996: The Democratic Update

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" No, it's not Christmas. It's election time, again. Four years have come and gone since the last election. It seems like just yesterday when the American people heard the magic words republican and democrat.

In 1992 the people decided that the republicans were not doing their job and voted for democrat Bill Clinton. When he became president, many people seemed happy. Except many students didn't really know what the Democratic party was and what it stood for because most of them spent adolescence with the Republican party in charge.

The origin of the Democratic party is uncertain. It is believed that the party was formed in 1828 by President Andrew Jackson. It appealed to mostly the working class people. Its beliefs were in state's rights and limited government.

Today the democrats, headed by Clinton, support communities and working class people. According to the Clinton committee, democrats have made laws that have cut the federal deficit in half, have created over 8.5 million new jobs and reformed the college loan system which has made college more affordable.

Democrats are pro-choice. They believe in a woman's right to choose. They also support pro-

grams for family planning and have increased funding for adoption and foster care.

Democrats also support major propositions such as 210, minimum wage increases; 216, healthcare and consumer protection; 211, limiting excessive attorney fees.

Democrats are opposed to 209 which ends affirmative action and 213 which prohibits criminals from receiving money if injured while committing a crime.

The local democratic candidates for this election are: businessman Doug Kahn for congress, former U.S. Prosecuting Attorney Adam Schiff who is running for state assembly.

Scott Wildman, a teacher and

shop owner, is running for 43rd district state assembly and Jack Scott, former Pasadena community College president, is running for 44th state assembly district.

These men believe in community development, the importance of education and strict laws against crime.

If the polls are to be believed, the democrats have the upperhand in this election. A poll taken by the local democratic headquarters said, as of October 3, the 43rd district cities of Burbank, Glendale and Studio City are 44.5 percent democrats while 39 percent are republicans.

In the 44th district of Sunland, Tujunga and Pasadena, democrats are 44.6 percent, republicans are

40.52 percent. In the 21st district of La Canada and Toluca Lake democrats have a 44.58 to 39.88 percent lead.

And in the 27th district of Silverlake, Saugus and parts of L.A., democrats are 43.89 percent compared to the republicans 40.98 percent.

Even though they have a good lead, the democrats are worried that the democratic voters might become complacent and forget to vote.



Block Grant Fate Almost Settled, Process to Begin

By ADAM ADLER
STAFF WRITER

The exact functions of the Block Grant Ad Hoc Committee have been a wide spread subject of debate on campus for the last month.

Differences of opinion have led to a delay in the final decision on who the ad hoc committee will report and submit the allocations to.

The Block Grant Ad Hoc Committee (task force) was formed to deal specifically with the requests and allocations for the over \$800,000 made available from the state Block Grants this year.

The ad hoc committee is the body that decides how the Block Grant funds will be distributed throughout the college. After making their decisions they make recommendations of the allocations to a higher authority in the college, the Faculty Senate in the case of last year.

The Faculty Senate either accepts or rejects the recommendations. If the recommendations are rejected the proposal goes back to the ad hoc committee to be redone.

Some changes in the process were suggested by the Senate Executive Committee to help streamline the Block Grant process. They suggested that members of the committee be expanded to provide more representation on campus

and that the committee's recommendations go directly to the college president to save time.

Not everyone was in agreement with the changes. Some members of the College Council thought the ad hoc committee should go to the Budget Committee and then to the College Council before final approval by the president.

Members of the Faculty Senate thought the ad hoc committee should go through the Faculty Senate first before being submitted.

One of the proponents of requiring the ad hoc committee to report to the Budget Committee is Mary Ann Breckell, vice president of Administrative Services, who will be responsible for calling the first meeting for the ad hoc committee.

Breckell said that the Block Grant funds are college money and it should be put through the Budget Committee like all college moneys. "I just have a philosophical approach that it should come through budget," she said.

Breckell does strongly advocate that the ad hoc committee should begin meeting while the report structure issue is being settled and believes the matter will be settled when the ad hoc committee is ready to report.

Jack Sterk, the Faculty Senate president, advocated that the ad

hoc committee should go directly to the president and stands by the Senate Executive Board's original discussion.

"There has to be some trust placed in the individuals (committee members) that they are doing the job in the best interests of the college," Sterk said.

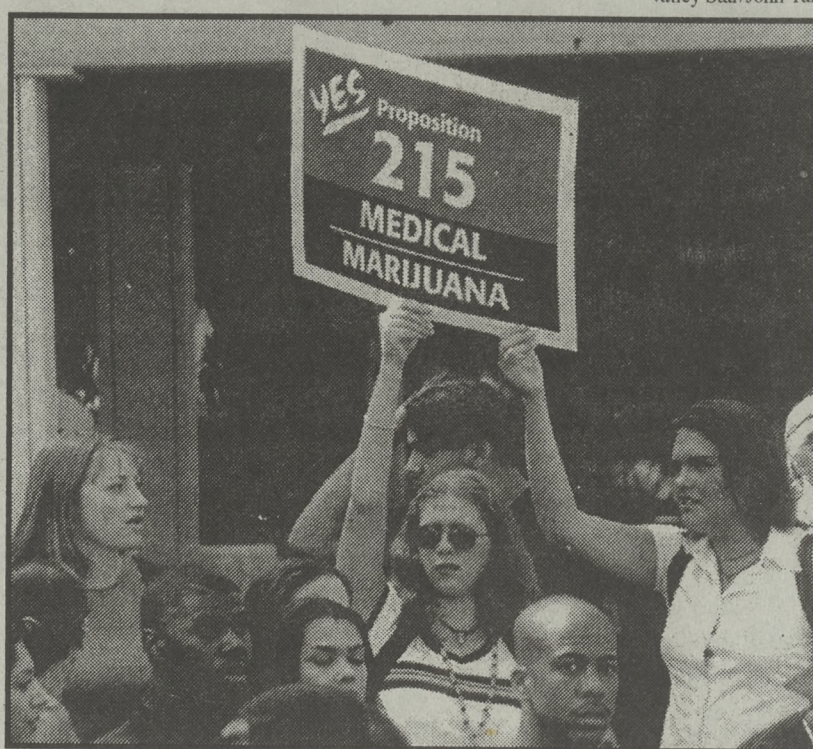
Sterk does not approve of the process being filtered through additional committees. He said the additional committees would not have a full understanding of the Block Grants because they would not have been there from the beginning.

The Senate Executive Committee met on Oct. 7 and made recommendations to have the subcommittee present their allocation for the Block Grants to the President in the College Council meeting.

They further recommended that the subcommittee submit a draft of the allocations for the members to take back to their contingency groups for input.

The Senate Executive Board's decision is being considered and is not yet final but the matter should be settled soon.

In the meantime, the Block Grant Ad Hoc Sub-Committee will be having their first meeting to set their procedures and requirements for making the allocations.



Young demonstrators display their zeal for Proposition 215.

Taking A Step Toward Emptying Prisons, But Will 215 Pass?

By SUZANNE DI LENA
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

PROPOSITION 215

Proposition 215 on the November ballot "exempts from criminal laws, patients and defined caregivers who possess or cultivate marijuana for medical treatment recommended by a physician. It provides that physicians who recommend use shall not be punished," according to the ballot measures summary.

Students have mixed opinions about the proposition. "It's harmless compared to the drugs already out there. People will always take drugs," said Jennifer Bozyk, a Valley College student.

"It should not be sold or grown," said Cynthia Vallejo, a Valley College student.

Another Valley College student, Charron Bailey, sees its medical benefits but said it should be a prescription, not grown.

Political science instructor, Professor Robert Pritchard, sees marijuana possession as the main reason for the overcrowding of our jails, now overflowing at 200 percent capacity.

The Statistical Abstract of the USA gives the following numbers for the possession of marijuana in thousands of juvenile offender

cases: In 1980, out of 73,681 reported arrests, 64,465 were for possession of marijuana. In 1993, out of 62,963 reported arrests, 37,915 were for possession of marijuana. The figures are consistent, year after year during the period covered. Pritchard sees this proposition as a first step toward emptying our prisons.

Dr. Cheryll Gray, sees in the proposition, as it stands, several areas of main concerns for the medical profession. First, it will be hard to define specific "medical use" versus recreational use.

The nature of the plant itself presents another question. There will be no idea as to the specific qualities of the plant, the level of the drug it contains or its concentration. "As a result, how is it to be measured?" asked Gray.

Medicine is usually measured in grains and a specific amount of grains is prescribed.

"It leaves too many variables for a practitioner to be able to supervise precisely the medication," said Gray. She would like to see more definite guidelines. "For medical use is too broad a term." For all practical purposes, it leaves the patient at liberty to dose him/herself, and that is always a risky situation.

L.A.V.C. Crime Watch

The following are a list of crimes reported to campus police from Sept. 22 through Oct. 5

Sept. 20: Two groups of gang members from Grant High School began a fight in the school cafeteria at approximately 1 p.m. Campus police were able to stop the fight before it escalated.

Sept. 23: A motor vehicle burglary occurred in Lot E between 9:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. The car's speakers were stolen.

Sept. 25: A motor vehicle burglary occurred in Lot G between 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. A radio was stolen.

Sept. 26: Hub cap theft in lot G between 6:30 and 9 p.m. The hub caps were valued at \$160.

Sept. 28: A hit and run accident caused minor damage to a planter on Ethel Ave., time unknown. The damage was discovered the next morning.

Oct. 1: A theft of a professor's photographic equipment occurred in his office in BJ 114 between the times of 10 and 11 p.m. The equipment was valued at approximately \$1000.

Oct. 3: Another hub cap theft occurred in Lot C between the times of 2 and 4 p.m.

Oct. 5: The Hillel club's Sukkah was set on fire between the times of 11 p.m. Sat. night and 6:40 a.m. Sunday when the burnt out tent was found.

All campus crimes are reported to the L.A.P.D. further investigation

Due to a recent rash of car burglaries the Campus Police suggest that valuables be locked in the trunk or not left in the vehicle.

The Campus Police can be reached by dialing #30 on any campus pay phone. Students are encouraged to call in cases of emergency or to report a crime on campus.

Jewish Harvest Festival

By L.E. THOMAS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Lively Jewish music filled the air in front of the Campus Center last Wednesday while Nomi Gordon, Director of Hillel for Pierce and Valley Colleges, taught fun-loving students traditional Judaic dances.

The students were joyously celebrating the annual Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot. The event was sponsored by the campus chapter of Hillel, an international Jewish student organization.

Rabbinic Intern, Mark Wecker, graciously welcomed the students and taught about the festival.

Sukkot is a Hebrew word meaning, booths which refers to the seven day holiday in which thanks are given for a bountiful harvest, commemorating the forty years the ancient nation of Israel wandered in the Sinai desert.

The festivities began with a special blessing by waving the Lulav, or branches, and Etrog, or citron, a lemon-like fruit, in all directions. The action "indicates that God's presence is all around us," Wecker said.

It was poetically explained that the Etrog has both aroma and taste, which is like someone who has both knowledge and good deeds. The palm has taste but not aroma, the myrtle has aroma but not taste, etc. Joining them symbolizes unity - the answer is to work together.

All in attendance were invited to declare in unison a Hebrew blessing, which in English meant, "Blessed are you Lord our God the Ruler of the universe who has sanctified us with His commandments and to dwell in the Sukkah."

The Sukkah is the actual booth. It is covered with loose branches so stars can still be seen at night in order to appreciate God's creation.

Many Jewish people actually live and sleep in their booth for the festival time. Wecker pointed out that the openness of the Sukkah reminds us of our dependence upon God's benevolence

and protection.

The celebration continued with traditional music, dancing, tasty sweets, and adorning the Sukkah with homemade decorations. "It is not enough to build a temporary shelter," Wecker said. "It is important to decorate it, making a beautiful place."

According to Valerie Statland, president of Hillel at Valley College, this year's celebration attracted more people than last year

and had more flavor.

Wecker stated that all Hillel festivities are open to everyone. "One of the missions of Hillel is to bring the Jewish presence and awareness onto campus because we are very concerned that people see that we are an open people, that we are interested in fostering inter cultural relations and that the message of Judaism is one of hope, peace, community and harmony."

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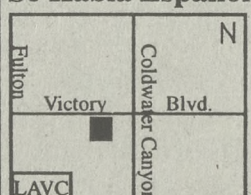
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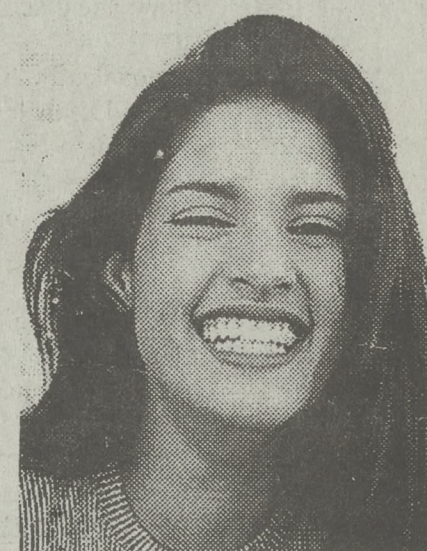


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It's Not Adam and Steve!

The government has decided that a line needs to be drawn in the sand to protect the people from themselves, whether they like it or not.

By JOHN TARR
STAFF WRITER

Homosexuality has become the plague of the modern day conservative and the topic of humor for the modern day liberal.

There exists a perspective in which all individuals are equal and it is morally wrong to discriminate against them based upon their sexual preference.

There also exists a perspective in which homosexuality is wrong, plain and simple.

The political parties are unwilling to bow to the minority of people clamoring for the legalization of gay marriages. The conservative party has never recognized homosexuality as anything other than perverse.

Even liberal President Clinton recently signed a bill into law stat-

ing homosexual marriages are illegal and will not be recognized by the government.

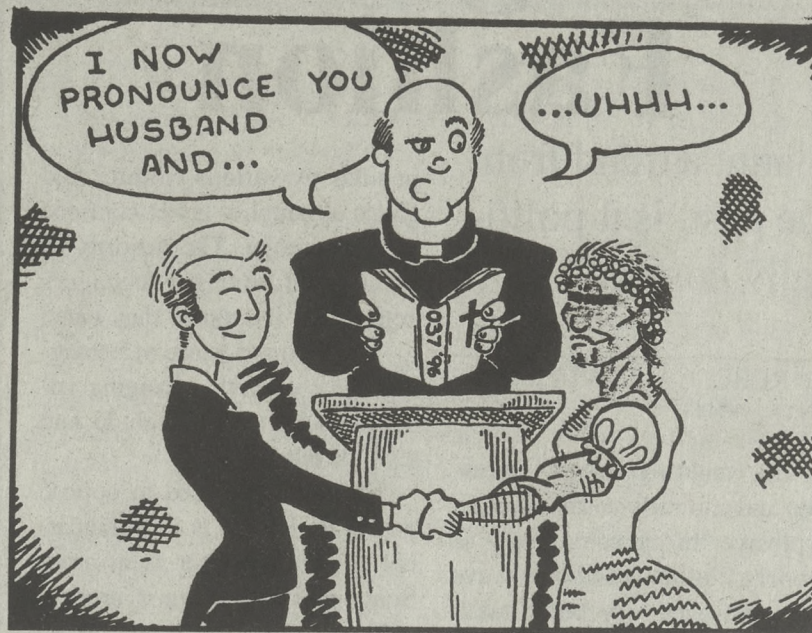
The private sector has been pressured into making radical changes in policy. IBM has changed its policy to enable gay couples to qualify for certain benefits (those same benefits are not available to heterosexual couples, even those who qualify as common-law marriages).

Isn't it interesting to note that groups who claim to be discriminated against are able to look the other way when the discrimination is in their favor?

Even the United States military has been pressured. They did not want to decide the issue of homosexuality so instead adopted a "don't ask and don't tell" policy.

Though the government is unwilling to acknowledge homosexuality as "normal," it has decided to regulate it through banning gay marriages.

Sure, one argument defending the homosexual position is the right-to-choice issue but if the government can pass laws stating that motorcycle riders must wear hel-



rets, then the government can ban gay marriages.

Though equating those two issues on the whole is not fair, the ideal behind each is the same—freedom of choice. Is abortion a better example? My body my choice, after all.

"There also exists a perspective in which homosexuality is wrong."

Maybe the government is right, maybe gay marriages should be banned. Once the door has been opened for a perverse perspective

to pervade and pollute American society it can never be closed. Besides, what's next, rednecks marrying their second-cousins?

Homosexual marriages, abortion and helmet laws are all issues of individual choice and freedom which the government has decided we, the people, are incapable of making.

Behind the government's motives regarding abortion decisions and same-sex-marriage decisions is the same motive behind the helmet and seat belt laws: "We're the government and we're going to save you whether you like it or not."

Save us from what, ourselves?

You May Kiss the Bride (Groom?)

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
and TANYA GALLARDO

"All men are created equal." Those words were written by the leaders of this nation to prevent people from being discriminated against. It seems, however, that those words do not apply to everyone.

Ever since the beginning of this country, oppressed people in our society have been fighting for rights. First it was religious rights; in the 60s it was civil rights; in the 70s it was women's rights; now, in the 90s, it is gay rights.

For years homosexuality has been taboo. Just hearing the word made some people's hair stand on end. Now, gay people want to be married...legally! God forbid!

John Marshall Harlan wrote, the Constitution of the United States "neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens."

Hawaii will probably be the first state to legalize same-sex marriages. The Hawaiian Supreme Court ruled that denying marriage licenses to gays could violate their state's equal-protection clause.

Life spins in cycles of many fights for freedom and rights. Once it was the African-Americans who were not allowed to marry interracially. In 1967, the Supreme Court ruled any such bans unconstitutional. Now, gay marriages are not legally recognized.

Marriage is a basic human right and is being denied to gays. The legal benefits that

come with marriage are then being denied. Homosexuals do not qualify for spousal benefits such as health insurance or inheritance rights because our nation does not recognize gay marriages as legal.

Many people gay or straight, wish to have the helpful advantages that married life provides. For example, joint income tax, life insurance and stability.

"This country was founded on equal rights and was established on those same ideals."

In the government's eyes, homosexuals are equal when it comes to paying taxes but when it comes to their rights they are not.

What people don't realize is that allowing homosexuals to marry can have an advantage for taxpayers. Married heterosexuals or homosexuals who rely on each other's care are less likely to ask for government assistance.

Denying people the right to marry whomever they wish is infringing upon their basic human rights and those written in the Constitution.

This country was founded on equal rights and was established on those same ideals.

Homosexuals are human beings. Humans are created equal, therefore homosexuals are equal to all humans and should not be denied their basic rights.

Down to Earth...

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Beaches, sunshine, Hollywood and glamour are all associated with California...at least for those who don't live here. For people who do, however, California is known as earthquake country. The Golden State is along the Circum-Pacific belt, also known as the "Ring of Fire." It includes countries along the Pacific coast where most of the earth's seismic activity occurs. Each year California is rocked with hundreds of earthquakes, some very strong while most are so small they are not even felt.

Californians have accepted earthquakes as a part of their lives, but when big ones strike, most people are not prepared. After the '94 Northridge quake, people stocked up on survival supplies, but after a while the equipment was forgotten.

To make sure everyone remembers to be prepared, here are some facts from the Southern California Earthquake Center:

There are over 200 earthquake faults in southern California which could cause a 6.0 or higher magnitude quake. Northridge was a 6.8.

Any place in southern California is within at least 30 miles of a fault line. We are surrounded by faults that could go off at any second.

California has had seven large quakes in the past ten years. In the previous 55 years only 16 such earthquakes occurred. The amount of large quakes has tripled.

What you can do:

Before an earthquake: Prepare your home by securing objects that can fall. Put safety latches on cabinet doors and anchor heavy furniture to the wall. Have a one week supply of water (one gallon per person per day), first aid kit, canned food, radio and flashlight batteries and personal hygiene supplies. Have sturdy shoes and comfortable clothes handy.

During an earthquake: Three words: duck, cover, hold. Stay away from windows and outer walls. Duck under a desk or table and hold on to it.

After an earthquake: Be aware of fire hazards. Keep a wrench near the gas main and know how to shut it off. Shut off the gas only if it smells like gas is leaking. If electricity goes out, do not use candles, the flame could cause an explosion if there is a gas leak. Don't make unnecessary phone calls the lines need to be open for those with injuries. Check for injuries to yourself and others.

Earthquakes are part of the earth's cycle without them we would not have our beautiful mountains. The best thing to do is know what to do before, during and after an earthquake, to reduce the chance of bodily harm and property damage.

Smoking Pot on Capitol Hill

Will the legalization of medical marijuana benefit society or is it the first step toward full legalization?

By JOHN TARR
STAFF WRITER

Not since Coca-Cola was formulated using cocaine (the real reason grandpa was able to walk five miles to school everyday, in the snow, uphill, both ways) has the United States government smiled upon lush fields of green marijuana bushes.

On the November 5 ballot there is a measure which would legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. Proposition 215 allows for marijuana to be possessed or cultivated by patients whose physician has recommended marijuana treatment.

Marijuana can relieve pain and suffering in serious illnesses such as cancer, AIDS, anorexia, spasticity, arthritis, chronic pain and migraine headaches. Cancer doctors and nurses groups support 215. The CFT/AFT recommends a "yes" vote on 215 and rightly so. Opponents claim 215 will allow people to grow and smoke marijuana for stress or "any other illness."

Tell that to the registered nurse who, according to the California Journal Analysis (Sept. 1996),

gave her dying husband marijuana to ease the nausea of chemotherapy for lung cancer.

Tell that to businessman George Zimmer - Mr. "I guarantee it" of Men's Wearhouse fame- who became involved when his mother was diagnosed with cancer 10 years ago. She refused to use marijuana because it was illegal even though it could have eased the acute nausea produced by chemotherapy.

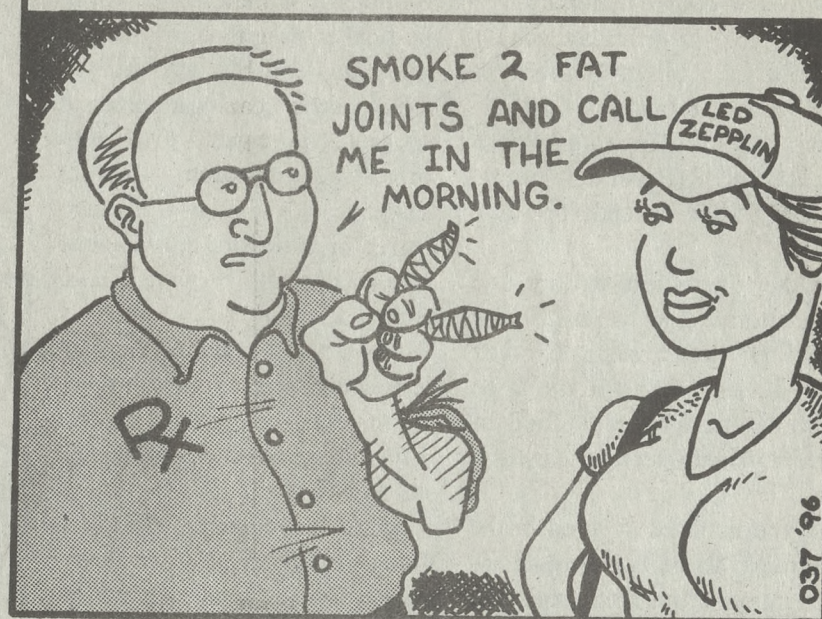
Alcohol is sold to anyone over 21-years old and yet kills more people every year than the Vietnam War.

The Food and Drug Administration classifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug, a classification reserved for dangerous drugs with no therapeutic value.

Currently, doctors can legally prescribe Schedule II drugs which include morphine, codeine, and cocaine in certain circumstances, according to a September article in the Sacramento Capital Campus News.

Scientists are still unable to precisely determine what effect marijuana has upon the brain to pro-

A SCENE FROM THE NEAR FUTURE ONCE MEDICAL MARIJUANA IS LEGALIZED...



duce a high, according to "Mega-Brain Power" by Michael Hutchison (Hyperion, 1994). There has never been a reported case in which an individual has overdosed and died from smoking marijuana.

Alcohol and cigarettes are still legally sold while the government chases ghosts and fills an already overcrowded correctional system.

Cigarettes cause thousands of deaths every year and are available to anyone over the age of 18.

Alcohol is sold to anyone over 21-years old and yet kills more

people every year than the Vietnam War. And marijuana is illegal?

Even if 215 opened the door for full legalization of marijuana it would only be a sign that government is waking up and listening to the people instead of continuing its self-serving goals.

Besides which, then the government can tax marijuana sales and put all that money currently spent on drug enforcement into a useful campaign such as improving the quality of education. But, that would make sense.

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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

"Dick Tracy" Comes to Valley

By L.E. THOMAS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Private eye, P.I., gum-shoe, private detective and a few other names have all been heard and seen on those heart-pumping thrill scenes on television.

The Valley College Extension Program is offering a brand new Private Investigator Academy to open this month. Sound intriguing?

Program director and licensed P.I., Mark Neer, said a private investigator is employed by public and private sectors to seek out information. A typical task list includes a background search, financial investigation, witness interviews, criminal investigation, skip-tracing, record search and person locating.

Why the new program at Valley?

"We set up a program to provide private investigation training through a community college at a very reduced rate, designed to give skills to obtain a job in order to become licensed," explained Neer.

"This is a completely new program that has not been offered by any other community college service," Dennis Reed, Dean of Community and Industrial Relations, stated. "The number one idea of all extension programs is to provide training not offered by credit classes or community services."

Will the school make money? "Hopefully," said Reed. "The Extension Program is self-supporting and is also used to generate revenue for college operations."

Apparently, the new program is only one of three private investigation training opportunities available in this area. The other two are private schools charging as much as \$5,000 or more.

Valley is offering an 18 week, 150 hour program for \$950, which includes all course materials.

Neer holds California teaching credentials, college degrees in criminal justice and political science. He also owns his own agency and has worked for the Federal Public Defender for nine years.

Other instructors will include three attorneys, a veteran 25-year L.A.P.D. detective, a 17-year chief investigator for the U.S. Public Defender's office and licensed private sector investigators.

Some material covered in the program will be background investigation, crime scene analysis, electronic surveillance, criminal procedure, business law, skip tracing, P.I. computing and report writing.

Private investigating is a booming field, according to Judith Trester, director of the Job Re-

source Center at Valley. "I'm convinced there's a definite job market there, private investigating is a growth opportunity position."

The U.S. Department of Labor reports a 70 percent growth rate through the year 2005 and "Money" magazine ranked it in the top 10 growing careers.

There are only 7,500 licensed P.I.'s in the entire State of California as compared to 200,000 licensed attorneys, according to Neer. "The field is wide open... There is a definite demand and need for private investigators."

Governor of the L.A. District California Association of Licensed Investigators, Dale Gustafson, is aware of the new program and stated, "It's a real deal for the money."

Gustafson indicated that it could be difficult to break into the field stating, "The college program is certainly a step in the right direction and could open the door to get in the business."

He added that the program offers, "Very practical training and [is] on track with what investigators deal with daily. It's a good intro to the field."

Does all this mean that graduates will get a license? The answer is no. No school can provide a student with a license. No matter where training is received it is required to log 6,000 employment hours (unless you have a college degree, then 4,000) working directly with a licensed investigator and then pass the state examination in order to obtain a license.

No financial aid or job placement will be offered. However, some career development will be incorporated into the courses. Students will also have the opportunity to network with licensed P.I.'s and other related professionals.

The only way, according to Neer, to obtain a specific education in the field is through a private P.I. school and now through Valley.

He added, "The curriculum of this program compares to any junior college curriculum. Instructors have been chosen with a high degree of education and experience in order to provide a high level of learning."

"We are not just handing out certificates here, we are providing teaching comparable to that in the college credit environment," stated Neer.

As a career expert, Judith Trester evaluated that private investigation is for the adventure-some, risk-taking person who likes a flexible schedule.

Students interested in entering the "gum shoe" scene should contact Dennis Reed at (818) 781-1200 ext. 424 for more information.

Linguistic Fashion

Slang: a trend from the past, is it politically correct?

By REBECCA FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

It's the bomb! You hear this expression and naturally you think of an explosive. In today's society of rappers, hip-hop and new wave funk, however, the bomb takes on a completely different meaning. It is slang for the best, absolutely top of the class.

Slang is to language what fashion is to clothes. It is a way of identifying social and ethnic groups, yet it allows for individuality. Consequently there are no color lines when it comes to using slang.

Although slang is sometimes associated with gangs, it is used daily in all social circles by young and old alike.

Centuries ago slang, or jargon as it was called, was used during wars so allies could communicate with one another and their enemies could not understand. Even POW's used a form of slang to identify each other.

It is often seen as a lesser form of language, one that is not as meaningful or important as the language it is derived from. Nonetheless language is a trend which continues to thrive. "Where's the beef?" A catchy phrase from a television commercial was recycled by social groups, college students, teenagers and colleagues to serve their own purposes.

Language and jargon is made

popular by various cultures and gangs although it is not confined to their usage. The majority of slang used amongst teenagers come from the music they listen to. It confirms a sense of belonging. Its constantly changing vocabulary serves to include and exclude outsiders.

Slang is also used to oppose authority. Five-O is a tip indicating a police officer is around. Sometimes language is used to show a range of attitudes from joking to downright disrespect. Whatever! is said to mean a person does not care or they agree with what is said. Regardless, slang is considered to be the bomb way of communicating.

There are several different ways of creating slang. Take a word add a prefix to it and a new word is created. Mega plus cool gives us megacool. In the same way adding a suffix creates a new word. Caffeine plus aholic gives us caffeinaholic. Some slang words are derived by shortening a word. Frat is short for fraternity. These examples are more along the line of Valley jargon.

Significantly, the slang commonly used by friends and peers is a way of talking in code so outsiders are unable to understand. In doing this they feel they can speak freely in public places and not have to worry about other people being able to understand.

Fashionably speaking, most everyone wants to be ultramodern. College students have a style of slang understood from campus to campus. Here are some examples of college slang: **dead soldier** - an empty beer can; **intellectual hour** - soap opera time; **social donut hole** - a socially inept person; **wilma** - a girl who acts stupid; **o'river** - farewell (from the French au revoir);



Cast members of the musical "Bye Bye Birdie" captured in awe as they listen to Conrade Birdie (Colin Miller) sing during rehearsal for the musical. It is scheduled to open Halloween night on the mainstage in the Theater Arts Building. "Bye Bye Birdie" is directed by Peter Parkin and choreographed by Marjorie Vander Hoff.

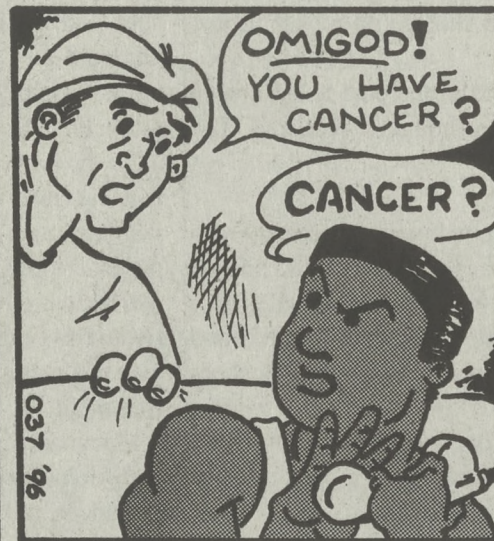
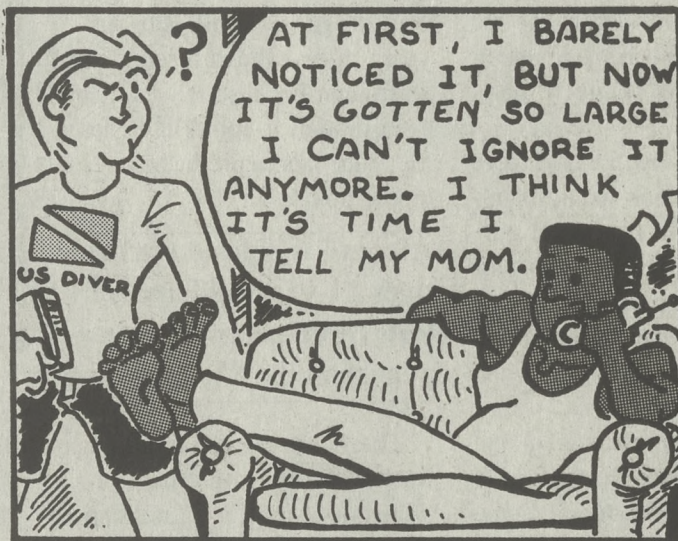
dangling modifier - long flashy earring.

College campus have cliques, of different ethnic groups. They too have their own slang. Here are some examples of hip-hop slang: **tru dat** - you agree with something said; **my bad** - my mistake; **it's all good** - everything is okay; **jus chillin** - you're relaxing; **wuzup** - how are you; **gig** - a job; **in da**

zone - on the same level mentally; **talk to the palm** - not interested in what's being said.

Although slang is sometimes associated with gangs, it is used daily in all social circles, by young and old alike. It has spilled over into society on a level that has influenced the media and the entertainment industry. It's all good 'cause droppin' slang is the bomb.

DUTCH AND REED



BY LEO SMITH

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Once a Thespian, Always a Thespian

By TANYA GALLARDO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Take a scatter-brained and whimsical look at the selfishness and eccentricity of theater actors and theater life, in Harlequinade directed by Aubrey West.

The final hours before the curtain is raised on opening night reveals the madness which the actors, and the stage manager go through at the final dress rehearsal.

The production is Romeo and Juliet, and the chaos from the stage seeps into the lives of the actors in between rehearsal breaks.

Arthur Gosport (played by Chris Barnes), was one of the more humorous and entertaining aspects of the show.

Gosport is the loud, and demanding Romeo who deals with his advancing years and a tabloid controversy that always seems to find actors.

Johnny Wakefield (played by Johnny Naum), is the frazzled stage manager who tries to keep the cast together and sane while trying to sane himself. He realizes by the end of the play that he himself is just as insane if not more so.

Naum takes the character of Mr. Wakefield to a different plane adding to the aloofness of the character.

Throughout the play, Wakefield

tries to unsuccessfully juggle his theater life with his "normal" life with fiancé, Joyce (played by Pnina Barak).

He finally realizes not much else exists outside of the theater that he can cope with.

The character George Chudleigh, who by far stole the show, reveals how once you are in the theater you can not leave, even after seventy years.

The play had some overall comedic value considering it was written some forty years ago and the jokes often flew over the heads of the audience.

The style in which the play was written and intended to be portrayed seemed to be misunderstood by the actors or the director. The play was done well and the actors were entertaining. It was humorous to see the characters' zany attempts to solve and iron-out last minute problems on opening night.

The next lab play, The Ugly Duckling, is Thursday, October 17 at 8pm and Friday the 18 at 1pm and 8pm in the Shoebox (lab theatre). The show is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

The play was part of the series of student directed lab shows. Harlequinade was performed in the Horseshoe, which gets its name from the shape of the house seats.

Halloween: A Haunting Experience

Night Scares, a
terror in the making

By REBECCA FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

This is a first in a series of haunted house reviews.

Halloween brings out the monster in all of us. This is a holiday that glorifies the ugly and the grotesque. The uglier and scarier your costume, the more respectable it is.

Halloween is often celebrated with haunted houses, costume parties, carnivals and parades. This halloween is no exception.

One of Los Angeles' self proclaimed "best haunted houses," is Night Scares. It is advertised featuring high tech scares, amazing scenes and dozens of nightmares. It is supposed to be a high tech attraction which will leave you speechless, lost and confused; An experience in sheer terror. Not!

It was a haunting experience which left me dazed and confused. Where were the high tech promises? Sure speechless describes the experience but a better word would be disappointed. (Night Scares is located in Agoura Hills unfortunately the thrill was not worth the drive or the \$9.95 admission price.)

Night Scares is nothing more than a plywood structure covered with a white canvas and held together with stakes. If you are six-foot or taller then you will experience it in a hunch-back position.

Amazing it was not but a maze it was. At the entrance you are welcomed by a butler. He allows you to enter two or three people at a time. The set-up is dark. The walls are designed with lots of doors and cupboards. As you walk through, the creatures of the night jump out and say "Boo!"



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HISTORICAL MUSEUM CONTEST

A tour of the Valley College Historical Museum located in Bungalow 14 may earn you a \$20 gift certificate for the campus bookstore or a leather-bottom Monarch backpack courtesy of the Valley College bookstore. By correctly answering seven questions about the San Fernando Valley and Valley College, your name will be placed in a drawing where TWO of all the correct answers received will be randomly selected.

Question 1: "Cat's pajamas" were the rave of the time; what were they?

Question 2: How many people were listed in the very first Los Angeles phone book?

Question 3: What was the cost of talking on the phone for an hour in 1886?

Question 4: What year was Valley College founded?

Question 5: Which local high school served as Valley College's temporary quarters for its first two years?

Question 6: Which famous movie used the Van Nuys airport as a substitute for an airport in some far off mysterious land?

Question 7: What was the original name of Burbank Boulevard?

Have all the correct answers? Include your complete name, social security number and telephone number along with the correct responses and submit to Bungalow 25 no later than Mon. Oct. 21.

Winners will be announced in the October 24 issue of the Valley Star. The contest has been extended past the original deadline because of a week hiatus the Star recently took. The Star apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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At THEATRES OCTOBER 16

Monarchs Whomp Vaqueros

Record improves to 3-1 after resounding victory over Glendale 53-28

By JENNIFER CORTESE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Saturday, October 5 the Monarchs came out big winners against the Glendale Vaqueros in a 53-28 stomping.

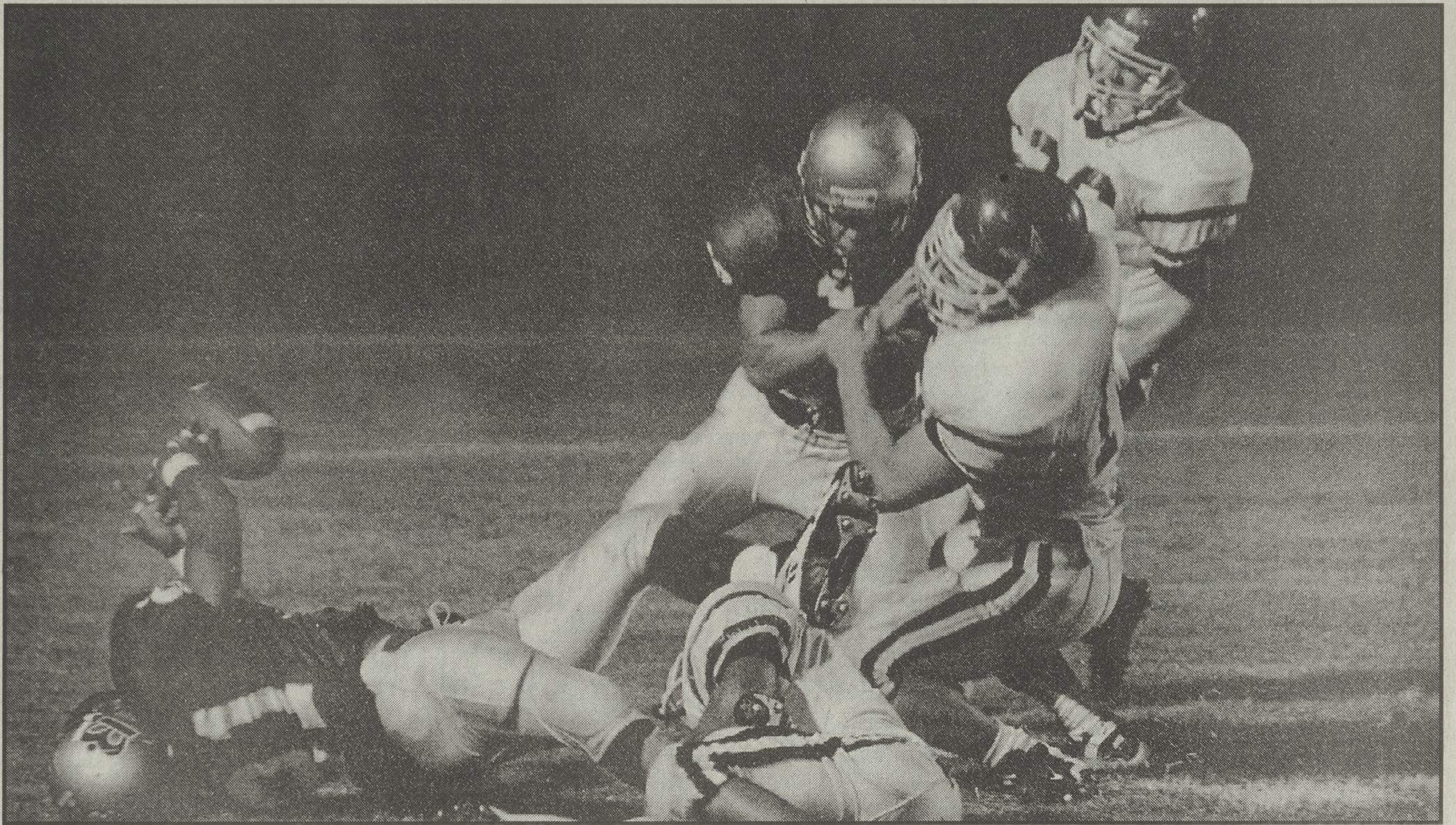
Valley's first home game of the 1996 season, seemed at first to be a close game but the Valley Monarchs proved their dominance as they have been doing in the past three games.

Although Valley's defense spent most of the first half on the field rather than the sidelines, they turned in an outstanding second half by allowing only one touchdown.

The Vaqueros (2-2) opened the night's scoring with the game's first score, but the Monarch's answered with a tremendous 62-yard run by Marcus Harvey who was tackled at the 1-yard line which set-up Antwane Smith's scoring rush.

Rising to the challenge, the Vaqueros ran in a touchdown for a 12-7 lead.

Glendale had the tempo going their way in the second quarter but Monarch quarterback Dave Lins (21 of 33 passes for 266 yards and 4 touchdowns), taking only 18-



Valley Star/John Tarr

seconds to respond to the Vaqueros' scoring drive, threw a 65 yard touchdown pass to a wide-open Joey Orlando in the end zone which made it 21-18 at the half.

Harvey (10 carries for 131 yards and one touchdown), scored on a 1-yard run in the second half for a 32-21 lead.

With 33 seconds remaining in the 3rd quarter, Glendale added one last touchdown by Rahssan Harrison (15 carries for 100 yards).

The Vaqueros' Ramone Archie scored two touchdowns and gained 127 yards on 17 carries to enhance their running performance.

Two more touchdown passes from Dave Lins to Willie Perryman quashed any of the Vaqueros' hopes of coming back into the game.

With four games under their belts, several Monarchs are vying for top spots in the Western State Conference. For a second time in an amazing two weeks Lins has been named WSC Co-player of the Week with 85 completions for 1,058 yards.

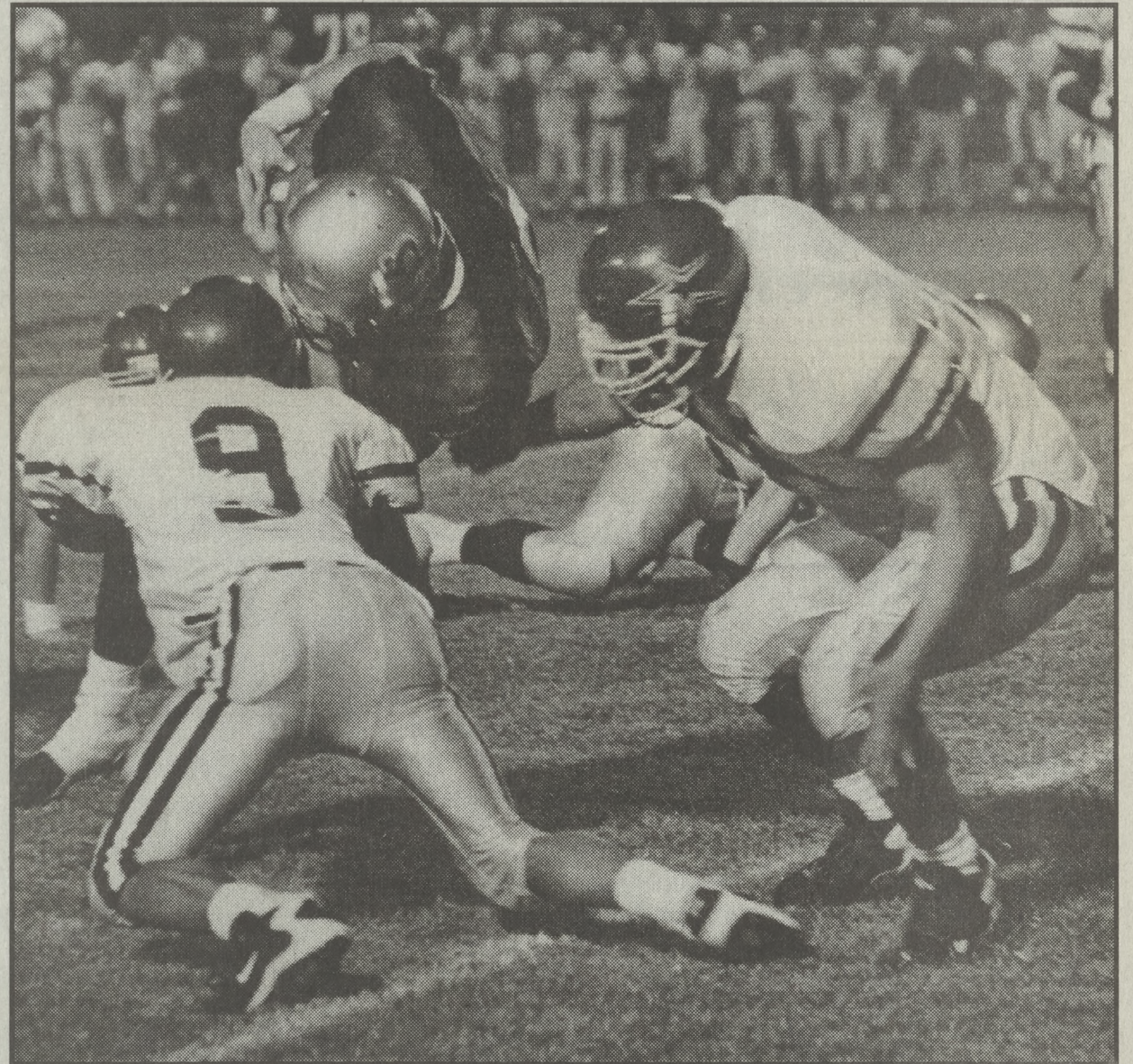
Eric Ruhle tops the list of receivers with 27 receptions for 532 yards followed by Orlando with 23 catches for 275 yards.

This Saturday, October 12 at 1:00 p.m. the Monarchs will be traveling to Compton to do battle with the Compton Tartars, a South Coast Conference team. The Tartars have had little success with the Monarchs in recent years.

The Monarchs are heavily favored in the upcoming game with the Tartars because of a 5-0 record and a five game cumulative point total of 235-57, according to Dale Beck of Monarchs football press relations.

Scoring Summary:
L.A. Valley 53, Glendale 28
By Quarter:
Glendale 12 9 7 0 = 28
Valley 7 11 14 21 = 53

-In Loving Memory-
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